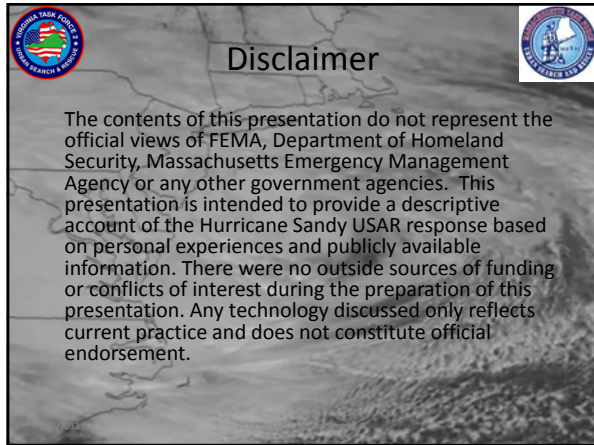




**The Hurricane Sandy Response:
A Tale of Two Teams
The MA-TF1 and VA-TF2 Experience**

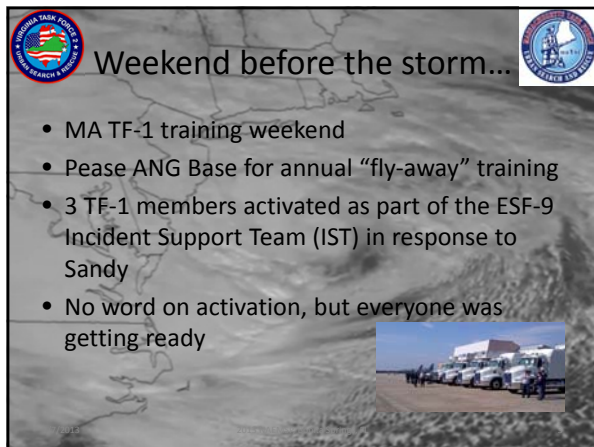
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Disclaimer

The contents of this presentation do not represent the official views of FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency or any other government agencies. This presentation is intended to provide a descriptive account of the Hurricane Sandy USAR response based on personal experiences and publicly available information. There were no outside sources of funding or conflicts of interest during the preparation of this presentation. Any technology discussed only reflects current practice and does not constitute official endorsement.



Weekend before the storm...

- MA TF-1 training weekend
- Pease ANG Base for annual "fly-away" training
- 3 TF-1 members activated as part of the ESF-9 Incident Support Team (IST) in response to Sandy
- No word on activation, but everyone was getting ready



Weekend before the storm...

- VA-TF2 member activated as part of the ESF-9 Incident Support Team (IST) in response to Sandy
- Notification of potential deployment. Component members checking with their leaders



Monday, 29OCT2012

- State activation by MEMA for to stage @ Bridgewater Correctional Complex
- Type 1 (80-person) team
- TF representatives working through FEMA Region I and ESF-9 Office to determine next assignment
- ESF-9 has activated IST and 2 USAR teams (MD-TF1, VA-TF1)





Monday, 29OCT2012

- Activation of TF2. Personnel to report to Virginia Beach Training Center
- Type 1 (80-person) team assembled
- Check in process
- Waiting out storm as it passes through Virginia



 **Next stop, Queens NYC...** 

- Release from MEMA and federalized
- Initial staging orders @ Stanford, CT
- Proceeded to NYC
- FDNY, NYC OEM
- IST updates and reports
- Rockaway area for 48 hours



 **Next stop, Walmart!!!** 

- Assigned as state asset to Maryland
- Staging orders at Walmart on Virginia/Maryland border
- Released in afternoon by Maryland and instructed to proceed to New Jersey
- Redirected from NJ to Queens, NY



 **Far Rockaway** 





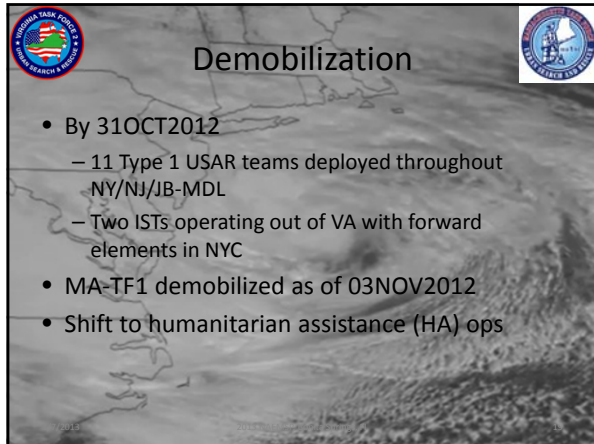












Demobilization

- By 31OCT2012
 - 11 Type 1 USAR teams deployed throughout NY/NJ/JB-MDL
 - Two ISTs operating out of VA with forward elements in NYC
- MA-TF1 demobilized as of 03NOV2012
- Shift to humanitarian assistance (HA) ops

The slide features a satellite map of the New York and New Jersey area. It includes two circular logos: the '10th USAF Search & Rescue' logo on the top left and the '10th USAF Search & Rescue' logo on the top right.



Reassigned to NJ

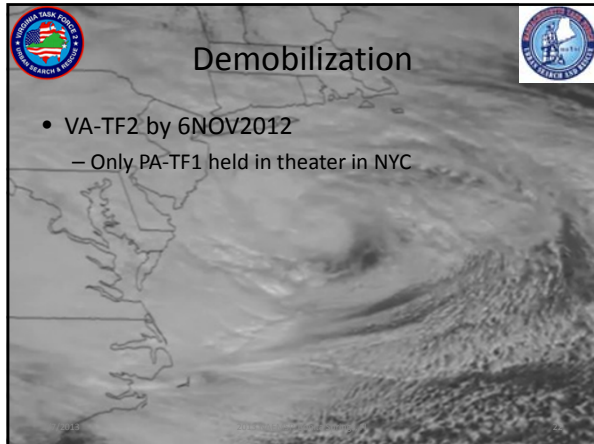
- On 2NOV2012, staged at Ft Dix with multiple teams (USAR and DMAT)
 - Continue with searches in Nassau County
 - Shift to humanitarian missions in NYC
 - Target Specific searches
 - Social Services clients
 - Deliver food and water to affected areas

The slide features a satellite map of the New York and New Jersey area. It includes two circular logos: the '10th USAF Search & Rescue' logo on the top left and the '10th USAF Search & Rescue' logo on the top right.



Humanitarian Mission

The slide features a satellite map of the New York and New Jersey area. It includes two circular logos: the '10th USAF Search & Rescue' logo on the top left and the '10th USAF Search & Rescue' logo on the top right. There are two inset photographs: one showing a street scene with a truck and buildings, and another showing military personnel in camouflage uniforms loading supplies into the back of a vehicle.



Demobilization

- VA-TF2 by 6NOV2012
 - Only PA-TF1 held in theater in NYC

The slide features a satellite map of the United States and two circular logos in the corners: the Virginia Task Force 2 Research & Rescue logo on the top left and the United States Coast Guard logo on the top right.

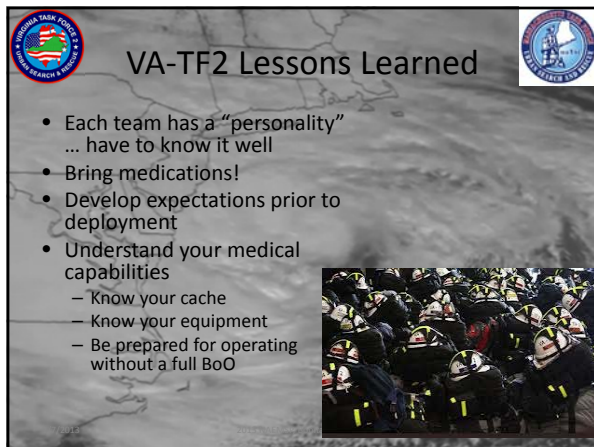


MA-TF1 Lessons Learned

- Know the health of your team members
- Develop medical check-in procedures *before* deploying
- Establishing your medical capabilities
 - Corollary is understand what your mission is
 - Do the research on where you are going
 - Be ready for “trunk medicine”




The slide features a satellite map of the United States and two circular logos in the corners: the Virginia Task Force 2 Research & Rescue logo on the top left and the United States Coast Guard logo on the top right. An inset image shows medical supplies, including a cooler and various medical kits, on a table.



VA-TF2 Lessons Learned

- Each team has a “personality” ... have to know it well
- Bring medications!
- Develop expectations prior to deployment
- Understand your medical capabilities
 - Know your cache
 - Know your equipment
 - Be prepared for operating without a full BoO



The slide features a satellite map of the United States and two circular logos in the corners: the Virginia Task Force 2 Research & Rescue logo on the top left and the United States Coast Guard logo on the top right. An inset image shows a group of people wearing helmets and gear, likely a team preparing for deployment.

 **MA-TF1 Lessons Learned** 

- Deploy team medical assets wisely
- **ESF-9 is not ESF-8**
- Communication and coordination with other teams
- Medical IST is one of *many* resources to the MTM
- Logistics section can *make or break* a deployment
- Know the ICS!



 **VA-TF2 Lessons Learned** 



- Be prepared to work without internet/cell phone support
- *Be prepared for all hazards missions*
- Communication with other component leaders
 - Coordinate tactics
- Double check information from outside sources
- Use assets at home facilities/agencies




 **MA-TF1 Lessons Learned** 



- Remember the preventive medicine and hygiene stuff too
- Team medics are not the only field providers, MTMs see patient too
- Be prepared for a team member injury or illness



 **VA-TF2 Lessons Learned** 

- Have to know canine medicine
 - They are team members as well
- Have to deal with strong personalities
- Be prepared for change at any moment
- Be prepared for to perform any task



 **Thank You...** 

Questions?
